

### *Metal Polishes*

#### **Brass Polish:**

Use worcestershire sauce, or equal parts salt and flour with vinegar.

#### **Chrome Polish:**

Use rubbing alcohol, or a small amount of ammonia with hot water, or white flour on a dry rag.

#### **Copper Polish:**

Mix equal parts salt and flour, add equal amount of vinegar, mix to form paste, apply and let dry, then wash off.

#### **Silver Polish:**

Soak silver in 1 qt. of warm water with 1 Tbsp. baking soda, 1 Tbsp. salt, and a piece of aluminum foil; boil for 3 minutes, scrub with an old toothbrush if necessary, dry with a soft cloth

### *Pesticides*

#### **Ant Control:**

Pour a line of cream of tartar, red chili powder, paprika, dried peppermint leaves or draw a line with chalk at point of entry

#### **Chemical Fertilizers:**

Use compost, peat moss, composted manure. Never use chemical fertilizers near a well or body of water.

#### **Flea Products:**

Give pets brewers yeast, garlic tablets or vitamin B as preventatives. Herbal baths prepared with fennel, rue or rosemary repel fleas.

#### **Herbicides or Fungicides:**

Pull weeds instead. Cover garden with plastic in the fall to prevent weed germination. Plant disease resistant seeds.

#### **Houseplant Insecticide:**

Wash leaves with soapy water, then rinse



### **Garden Control:**

Use sustainable gardening techniques, such as netting or companion planting to keep insects from plants. Eliminate standing water.

### **Insect Spray:**

Blend 6 cloves of crushed garlic, 1 minced onion, 1 Tbsp. dried hot pepper and 1 tsp. pure soap in 4 qts. Hot water. Let sit 1-2 days. Strain before using.

### **Roach Control:**

Place bay leaves around cracks in the room. Set out a dish of equal parts baking soda and powdered sugar or equal parts oatmeal flour and plaster of paris, or chopped bay leaves and cucumber skins, or crushed tobacco and water.

### **Snail and Slug Control:**

Lay broken sea shells around plants to keep slugs away. Fill a shallow pan with stale beer and place in infested area. Overturn clay pots and snail will seek shelter in them from the heat; collect and remove. Lay boards between rows of planted vegetables; snails will often attach themselves to the underside; collect and remove.

### *Insect Bites*

#### **Bee Stings:**

Apply a thick paste of baking soda and water or rub with an onion cut in half to stop pain and swelling.



#### **General Insect Bites:**

To relieve itching, rub area with apple cider vinegar, tea tree oil, or baking soda paste.

#### **Mosquitoes:**

Soak bites in salt water, then apply cold cream or a paste of salt mixed into lard or cold cream



**Newton Recycles**

## Household Hazardous Waste



## LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVES



City of Newton  
Department of Public Works  
617.796.1000  
[www.newtonrecycles.com](http://www.newtonrecycles.com)

## Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste (HHW) are products found around the home and garage that are considered:

- \* Flammable      \* Reactive
- \* Corrosive       \* Toxic

Before you buy, read the label. Avoid products with labels such as caution, danger or warning. Use products according to directions, store products safely, buy only what you need, and use up products or share what is left over.

Hazardous products should not be disposed of in the trash, flushed down the drain, or poured into storm drains or onto the ground. If you have any hazardous products in your house and do not wish to use them up, bring them to household hazardous waste collections held seasonally at the Resource Recovery Center at Rumford Ave. Proof of Residency required.

Choose the least hazardous product to do the job, or use one of these alternatives.

### Less Toxic Alternatives

#### *Air Freshener/Deodorizer*

##### **Carpets:**

Deodorize dry carpet by sprinkling liberally with baking soda. Wait at least 15 minutes and vacuum.

##### **Garbage Cans:**

Sprinkle baking soda in bottom of can



##### **Garbage disposal:**

Grind used lemons or peels in the disposal or pour baking soda into the drain

#### **Other:**

- Leave open boxes of baking soda in refrigerator, freezer, closets, and bathrooms
- Saturate a cotton ball with vanilla and place in an open container in a room or automobile
- Set out an open container of white vinegar
- Simmer cinnamon and cloves or potpourri
- Grow plants such as spider plants and philodendron

#### *Cleaners*

##### **All-Purpose Cleaner:**

1/4 c. baking soda, 1/2 c. vinegar dissolved in 1/2 gallon warm water

##### **Chlorine Bleach:**

Use dry bleach, borax, baking soda, or 1/2 c. vinegar to whiten. Borax is a good grease cutter. Never mix bleach with ammonia.

##### **Drain Openers:**

Pour boiling water with 1/4 c. baking soda and 2 oz. vinegar down your drain twice weekly to prevent clogs. Use a drain trap/strainer to catch food and hair. To clear a clogged drain, use a metal snake or plunger.

##### **Disinfectant:**

Use 1/2 c. borax for each gallon of water. To inhibit mold and mildew, do not rinse. Or mix 1 ounce of hydrogen peroxide with 1 gallon water.

##### **Floor Waxes and Cleaners:**

Vinyl floors: combine 1/4 c. borax or 1/2 c. vinegar with 1 gallon warm water

Wood Floors: use damp mop with mild vegetable soap, dry immediately

Painted or Finished Wood Floors: combine 1 tsp washing soda and a

gallon of hot water, dry immediately  
Sealed Wood Floors: mix 1/4 c. white vinegar with 1 gallon water, dry immediately.



#### **Furniture Polish:**

Polish with 1 tsp. lemon or almond oil dissolved into 1 pt. mineral oil. Wash with oil soap or castile soap and water. Rub toothpaste (not gel) on furniture to remove water marks. Use oil from crushed walnuts to conceal nicks and scratches.

#### **Mildew Cleaners:**

Mix 1/2 c. vinegar, 1/2 c. borax in warm water. Apply with sponge or spray bottle.



#### **Moth Balls:**

Use cedar chips or aromatic herbs such as lavender, rosemary, mint

#### **Oven Cleaners:**

Clean often with baking or washing soda: mix 3 Tbsp. soda with 1 c. warm water. Rub gently with steel wool. Use oven liners (foil) to catch spills. A small dish of ammonia left in the oven overnight will soften burnt spills and can be reused.

#### **Plant Sprays:**

Wipe leaves with mild soap and water, rinse

#### **Scouring:**

Use baking soda or a non-chlorinated commercial scouring powder

#### **Spot removers:**

Use club soda for fruit juice, tea, gravy, ketchup, and mud; immediate cold water for blood; lemon juice for ink, perspiration; beaten egg whites for spots on leather

#### **Toilet Bowl Cleaner:**

Clean with baking soda or use lemon juice and borax

#### **Window and Glass Cleaner:**

Clean often. For windows and mirrors, use vinegar and water (2 tsp. vinegar to 1 qt. water), let dry and polish with newspaper